

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/522,591

Examiner

Sherry L. Estremsky

Applicant(s)

KAYAMA ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed December 23, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 37-75.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date (4 pages)
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 37-75 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

No reference nor combination of references was found which teaches an automatic transmission including a first planetary gear unit with four rotary components, a reduced speed rotation output means for outputting rotation at a reduced speed to the first of the rotary components, and two input clutches, wherein the reduced speed rotation output means and one input clutch are on one axial side of the first planetary gear unit, and the second input clutch is located on the second axial side of the first planetary gear unit opposite the first axial side, as required by claim 37.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U. S. Patent 5,133,697 (Hattori) July 1992 - discloses an automatic transmission with a first planetary gear unit having four rotary components, two input clutches, and a reduced (reverse) speed rotation output means, with both clutches and the reduced speed rotation output means all being on the same axial side of the first planetary gear unit.

U. S. Patent Application Publication 2007/0129201 (Rihn et al.) June 2007 - discloses an automatic transmission with a first planetary gear unit having four rotary components. An input clutch and a second planetary gear unit are on one axial side of the first planetary gear unit, and a second input clutch is on the second axial side of the first planetary gear unit. The second planetary gear unit, with a fixed sun gear, a carrier as input, and a ring gear as output, provides an overdrive.

The following each disclose an automatic transmission with a first planetary gear unit having at least four rotary components, an input clutch on one side of the first planetary gear unit, and a reduced (unless otherwise noted) speed rotation output means on the other axial side of the first planetary gear unit:

U. S. Patent 6,110,069 (Taniguchi et al.) August 2000

U. S. Patent 6,558,287 (Hayabuchi et al.) May 2003 (overdrive)

U. S. Patent 7,282,007 (Ishimaru) October 2007

U. S. Patent 7,294,087 (Hayabuchi et al.) November 2007

JP 02-118240 (Asada) May 1990.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sherry L. Estremsky whose telephone number is (571) 272-7090. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday and Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SLE


SHERBY ESTREMSKY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU3681 1-3-08